

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

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R 081039Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7969

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKRA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 3485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ENRG, TU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LIBYAN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE

TERRORIST TRIAL

REF: ISTANBUL 3429

1. LOCAL U.S. CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN FIRM WHICH HAS BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOT-OWNED IPRAS REFINERY INFORMED US HE LEARNED DURING THE COURSE OF SEVERAL CALLS ON IPRAS THAT LIBYA IS DELAYING CRUDE OIL SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY. A TURKISH TANKER REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN AWAITING DELIVERY OF CRUDE IN A LIBYAN PORT FOR MORE THAN ONE WEEK. IPRAS OFFICIALS SAY REASON GIVEN BY LIBYANS FOR DELAY IS NON-RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, WHEREAS IPRAS CONTENTS PAPERWORK IS IN ORDER AND DELAY IS UNPRECEDENTED.

2. SOURCE OF INFO SPECULATES THAT LIBYAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO PRESSURE GOT INTO EXTENDING LIBERAL TREATMENT TO
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ISTANBUL AIRPORT TERRORISTS. HE ESTIMATES THAT IPRAS, WHICH IN

RECENT MONTHS HAS PURCHASED MAJORITY OF ITS CRUDE FROM LIBYA UNDER BILATERAL TURKISH/LIBYAN AGREEMENT, WILL EXPERIENCE SHORTAGES BY THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER UNLESS DELIVERY IS RELEASED OR ALTERNATIVE SUPPLY IS FOUND.

3. COMMENT: AT PRESENT CONGEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS REPORT BUT RECENT GASOLINE SHORTAGE (ISTANBUL 3181) WHICH WAS REPORTED DUE TO MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES AT IPRAS UNDERLINED ISTANBUL AREA'S DEPENDENCE ON THAT FACILITY FOR FUEL NEEDS, AND IN GENERAL, TURKISH ECONOMY'S VULNERABILITY TO SUCH PRESSURE. GIVEN THIS AND APPARENT LIBYAN CONNECTION OF ISTANBUL AIRPORT TERRORISTS (THEY DEPARTED FROM TRIPOLI AND PROBABLY WERE ARMED THERE) WE CANNOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT LIBYANS ARE RESORTING TO THIS TACTIC TO INFLUENCE TURKISH LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST TWO TERRORISTS. BATJER

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NNN

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